

FACT SHEET

Program Title: Programmatic NEPA/SEPA Environmental Impact Statement and Green/Duamish River Restoration Plan

Lead Agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
King County Department of Natural Resources Division

Abstract: The objective of the Green/Duamish River restoration plan and programmatic draft environmental impact statement (Programmatic DEIS) is to improve the overall health of the Green/Duamish River ecosystem for fish and wildlife species by restoring (increasing) the amount and quality of spawning and rearing habitat. This objective would be accomplished by improving the physical nature of the degraded habitat, improving ecosystem functions and values (including riverine processes), and addressing important factors limiting habitat productivity. The need for this restoration plan was clearly defined from the results of the Ecosystem Restoration General Investigation (Corps of Engineers 1997b). The EIS identifies and analyzes the impacts for the following alternatives: **Alternative 1 - No Action**; **Alternative 2 - Multi-Species Approach** (designed to maximize the benefits to multiple species of fish and wildlife); and **Alternative 3 - Single Threatened Species Approach** (focusing on habitat improvement for chinook salmon). Three subalternatives were identified and evaluated for Alternatives 2 and 3: **Subalternative A**, Ecosystem/Habitat-Forming Method; **Subalternative B**, Engineered Design and Constructed Habitat Method; and **Subalternative C**, Integrated Method.

All alternatives would result in beneficial improvements to fish and wildlife habitat. **Alternative 1 (No Action)** would incrementally improve habitat as a part of a variety of ongoing restoration efforts not under a common restoration program. **Alternatives 2A and 2C** would benefit a variety of fish and wildlife resources on the mainstem Green River and tributaries. **Alternatives 2B (multiple species of fish and wildlife) and 3B (focus on chinook salmon)** would represent engineered design and constructed habitat methods that emphasize water quality improvements and artificial propagation

Long-term impacts for all alternatives would be largely beneficial (improved channel depth and profile, stabilization of banks, localized improvement in surface water patterns, improved fish use and habitats, improved habitat for aquatic invertebrates, improved wildlife and riparian habitat), with short-term impacts associated with the construction of restoration projects (potential short-term increases in turbidity and sediment loads, potential for encountering contaminated soils, removal of vegetation for access and construction equipment, noise and localized air quality emissions from construction equipment, and the potential impacts to cultural resources).

The differences of impacts among alternatives are largely associated with the locations of restoration projects (mainstem [Alternative 2] vs. mainstem and tributaries [Alternative 3]), and the types of restoration activities under ecosystem/habitat-forming techniques (adding gravel or cobbles, adding large woody debris, eliminating barriers to fish, reconnecting critical habitat) vs. engineered design and constructed habitat method (construction of artificial spawning channels and hatcheries and artificial fish passage structures).

The Corps of Engineers has concluded that the preferred alternative is the Multi-Species Integrated Method (Alternative 2C). This alternative best meets the needs of the restoration goals by maximizing ecological benefits for a wider range of natural resources.

**NEPA Contact
Person:**

Mr. Pat Cagney
Environmental Resources Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4735 East Marginal Way S.
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

**SEPA Contact
Person:**

Clint Loper
Senior Engineer
King County Water and Land Resources Division
201 South Jackson
Seattle, WA 98104

**Responsible official
Corps:**

Col. James Rigsby, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4735 East Marginal Way S.
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

**Responsible official
King County:**

Nancy Hansen, Manager,
King County Water and Land Resources Division
201 South Jackson
Seattle, WA 98104

**Comment Period
for Draft EIS:**

The comment period for the programmatic DEIS ends 45 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. Comments on this programmatic DEIS and restoration plan should be sent to Pat Cagney at the above address.

**Availability of
Copies:**

Copies of the draft EIS are available from Mr. Pat Cagney.